

Water System Security

New Hampshire's Experience

Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES

Prior to 9/11

- Had just developed requirements and Emergency Plan Guide
 - Guide on website: <http://www.des.state.nh.us/wseb>
 - Focused on typical source related emergencies
 - Fulfilled contingency planning requirements under the Wellhead Protection Program
- Largest water systems had done Emergency Plans in early 1980s
 - Varying quality and system involvement
 - Outdated

After 9/11

- Federal Requirements/ State Goals
 - 2 Water Systems > 100,000
 - Have completed vulnerability assessments
 - No Systems 50,000 - 100,000
 - 34 Water Systems 3,300 – 50,000
 - 6/30/04 Deadline for Vulnerability Assessments
 - 93 Water Systems >500
 - No Deadline, State Goal

After 9/11

- Have attempted to integrate pre 9/11 Emergency Plan Guide into program
- Focusing on small systems until the dust settles

Resources

- 2 Large Systems Received Federal Funding
- State has Received \$314,000 in Federal Assistance
 - Must be used for planning, completing vulnerability assessments
 - Future funding unknown
- Dedicated Staff: Using a Portion of a Source Water Protection Position
 - No secure ongoing funding source
- Have Provided Source Security Grants from DWSRF Set-Asides

The Plan

- Using Contractors to Assist Water Systems with Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Plans
- Providing Planning Grants to Large Systems to Address Mutual Aid/Interconnection Needs
- Establishing Protocol For Who Does What Should an Emergency Occur
- Continue Funding Source Security Measures

The Challenges

- No Funding for Implementation other than source protection
- No Ongoing Funding for Developing In-House Dedicated Staff
- Getting Water Systems Engaged